

## Abstract

The aim of this bachelor thesis is an analysis of Crown Prince Rudolf's opinions as reflected in his original texts, primarily in his newspaper articles, which were published anonymously. The author focuses on texts written about three main topics: Austrian nobility, Rudolf's attitude towards the many nations living within the Habsburg monarchy and the functionality of dualism or the possibility of a different form of government. The author has used the following methods to explore these topics: analysis of newspaper articles, other original texts and analysis of correspondence with fellow journalist Moritz Szepe as well as literature search. The thesis presents the situation in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy in the 1870s and 1880s and describes Rudolf's position on the issue of nationalism in a multi-ethnic monarchy, his views concerning the Balkan question, religious tolerance and the Jewish question. The Crown Prince's opinion on dualism and its disadvantages compared to a unified empire, his attitude towards the possibility of further splitting of the monarchy or its federalization, and his opinion on the possibility of the monarchy's dissolution are also presented. Rudolf's assessment of the morals of the blue-blooded and their attitude towards science and progress are also analysed. Both the evaluation of the level of education of Austrian nobility and their preparedness for a position in the political life of the monarchy will be examined.